

Amendments to the Specification

In the title:

Please amend the title to read as follows: --CARRIER DEVICE FOR A BIOLOGICAL PREPARATION WHICH CAN BE CUT USING LASER MICRODISSECTION--.

In the Specification:

Before paragraph [0002] please insert the heading --BACKGROUND--.

Before paragraph [0009], please insert the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0009] It is therefore ~~the~~ an object of the present invention to provide a carrier device which makes it possible to perform laser microdissection on living cell cultures in a user-friendly and hygienic manner, in particular using a laser beam directed onto the preparation from above.

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0010] ~~This objective is achieved by~~ The present invention provides a carrier device for a biological preparation which can be cut by laser microdissection and which is located on a freely suspended, laser light-absorbing film mounted on a frame-like holder; the carrier device being characterized according to the present invention in that the frame-like holder is substantially in the form of a wall of a petri dish whose bottom is completely or partially omitted, and in that the missing bottom is replaced exclusively by the laser light-absorbing film.

Before paragraph [0023], please insert the heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0023] Advantageous embodiments of the present invention will be described below with reference to the schematic ~~drawing, in which~~ drawings, in which:

Before paragraph [0028], please insert the heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION--.

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0044] Carrier device 1 has a frame-like holder in the form of a wall 2 of a petri dish, which is typically made of plastic. The petri dish has no bottom. The missing bottom of the petri dish is replaced by a laser light-absorbing and therefore laser-cuttable film 3, which is adhesively bonded to the bottom edge 4 of wall 2. The adhesive is applied in only a thin layer and is therefore not shown. A living biological preparation 5 is placed or already grown on laser light-absorbing and therefore laser-cuttable film 3. To be able to illuminate preparation 5 from below, X/Y stage 13 is provided with a frame-like stage opening ~~15~~ 14.

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0045] The microscope 12 shown is a transmitted light microscope. For that purpose, an illumination system 15 and a condenser 21 illuminating ~~sample 4~~ preparation 5 are arranged below X/Y stage 13 and thus also underneath preparation 5. Below preparation 5, there is located at least one collection container 29 for collecting the severed preparation region of interest. The light passing through preparation 5 reaches objective 19 of microscope 12. Inside microscope 12, the light is directed via lenses and mirrors (not shown) to at least one eyepiece 22 through which a user can observe preparation 5 located on X/Y stage 13.